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Quick Hits

Wendy's may be long gone, but there's a new eatery here to take its place.

And it's not a chain hamburger joint.

US Fish and Chicken has taken over the spot, located at 10301 Jos. Campau (just south of Caniff), and it's now officially open for business.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place today (Friday, Feb. 12) at 11:30 a.m.

The owners are Shabul Miah and Muktha Lucky, and they have a special offer for everyone.

Starting at 2 p.m., they will be giving away free meals to the first 300 customers.

Yes, that's 300 free meals.

Here's the deal: You pick out your selection of fish or chicken, and they cook it up on the spot. Next, you eat it.

Fresh, from the market to the skillet to your mouth.

Now that's cooking.

This is not only a fish and chicken outlet, it also offers a variety of grocery items and beverages.

Quote of the week ...

Who said this, and what is it about? You can find the quote and the story it belongs to somewhere in the pages of this issue.

"We're both getting up in age."

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Paczki Day rolls with the weather and a few awkward moments

By Charles Sercombe

It figures.

After enjoying a record-breaking mild "winter," a cold arctic blast had to arrive on Hamtramck's very own holiday: Paczki Day.

But did it make much of a dent?

Well, yes and no. Paczki lovers still waited for over three hours at the bakeries to place their order.

But the crowds at the bars were a little thinner – and we mean by a hair.

Still, it was another good Paczki Day, with revelers walking the streets and swilling beer and downing shots in our bars.

No doubt this holiday brings in a truck load of revenue to our bakeries and bars.

Things got off to a huge start on Saturday with a 5k run sponsored by Tour-de-Troit. About 2,500 people showed up for the run, and many stayed after to sample free paczki and beer.

Yes, you read that right: a 5k run, followed by the consumption of paczki and beer. Now is that Hamtramck, or what?

We saw a lot of old-timers stop by to see the run and enjoy the festivities at the Countdown to Paczki Day. The day was such a success, it had a number of folks wondering: Why don't we do more of these things?

Hey, as long as there is beer involved, heck yes.

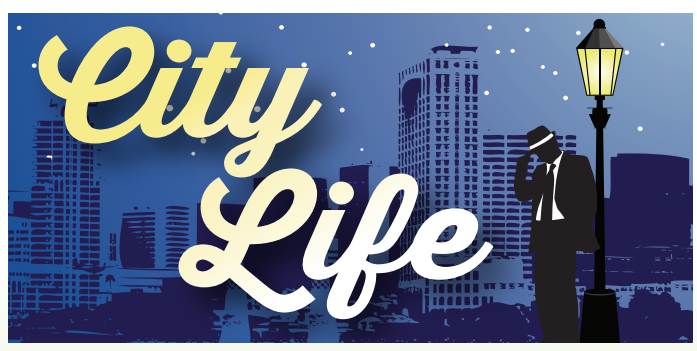
Paczki Day itself had a couple of – ah – weird moments.

The annual paczki eating contest took an awkward turn. One contestant, who was wheelchair-bound and overweight, started to choke when he was only two paczki into the competition.

Fellow contestants per-

Continued on page 5

New Martha Washington Bakery owner Sandy Bakic worked around the clock Monday and Tuesday boxing up paczki. Below: The Countdown to Paczki Day kicked off festivities on Saturday.



Paczki, catalyst for growth

(Editor's note: City Life is a column about walkable discovery in Hamtramck.)

By Walter Wasacz

Let us all give thanks to the paczki, the traditional Polish pastry that not only tastes good but has become a most unlikely local economic and cultural driving force. That it stimulates indoor and outdoor fun in mid- or late-winter might be its greatest asset, a true gift to Hamtramck.

Fat Tuesday, the day before Lent begins in the western Christian calendar, varies from year to year. But it is always in February or March, exactly 47 days before Easter. Mark this down: Paczki Day in 2017 is Feb. 28. That should give businesses, organizations and consumers plenty of time to prepare for the next round of daylong lines at bakeries, bars, restaurants and, yes, traffic signals.

It is also the perfect day to leave your car at home, if you live here in the city, or if you don't, park it in a convenient location and spend a day walking the busy commercial streets and exploring nearby neighborhoods.

On foot is how best to experience the psycho-geography of Hamtramck – that is, the intersection of the past and present smashed together into a new kind of keen awareness of city life. For more serious play, imagine creating the future of this place. See yourself as a participant, an investor, a cultural producer. There is plenty of room for all of us to make good things happen.

I set out in the morning and headed north on Jos. Campau through lightly falling snow. Lines were long at New Palace and New Martha Washington bakeries. Each year the two businesses are mag-

Continued on page 2

Rogue tow truck driver is on the loose

By Charles Sercombe

Watch out when parking in private parking lots.

What's being called a "gypsy" tow truck operator has been possibly illegally hooking up cars that are parked in business lots that have signs designating parking is for customer only.

The operator is working after business hours and apparently without permission from business owners.

So far it is believed to be just one tow truck driver cruising the city looking for cars to tow. Cars have been towed from the CVS lot where patrons at Bumbo's bar were parked, as well as the lot belonging to US Fish and Chicken and Three Star Bar-B-Cue.

On Saturday, several customers who parked in the US Fish lot to grab an order of paczki at New Martha Washington Bakery were forced to pay the tow driver $400 to get their cars released.

Sue Briskey, who owns Suzy's Bar, witnessed the encounters.

"The tow truck driver was circling the area like a shark," she said.

Police are asking anyone who has paid to get their car released to make a report.

City Manager Katrina Powell said the city attorney is looking into the matter to determine if the tow truck operator has violated any law.

Powell said if you find your car hitched by a tow truck operator after business hours and the driver demands cash on the spot to call 911 for police assistance.

The matter is now forcing the city administration to draw up an ordinance that regulates tow services. Powell said she was surprised to find out that the city doesn't have an ordinance on the matter.

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Obituaries

GARMANY

Auburn Bruce Garmany "Mr. Bruce", 62, died January 28, 2016.

Mr. Garmany was predeceased by his father, Auburn Dorthel. Mr. Garmany is survived by his mother, Margie Hurley; daughter, April; siblings, Caroline, Boman, Robert, Anthony Ray (Meline); Susan Killian; grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A private cremation was held. Arrangements were made by Jurkiewicz and Wilk Funeral Home, Hamtramck.

STASIK

Mrs. Stella Stasik, 94, died February 9, 2016.

Mrs. Stasik was retired from the State of Michigan, was a very active, lifelong member of Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church, M-K Society, Melodia Choir, Rainbow Seniors, Friendship House. Mrs. Stasik was a WWII "Rosie the Riveter" working on aircraft part production.

Mrs. Stasik was predeceased by her husband, Stanley in 2001. Mrs. Stasik is survived by daughter, Nancy Wisbiski; son, John (Mary Ann) Stasik; grandchildren, Michael (Shawne) Wisbiski, Susan (David) Davis, Jennifer (Kent) Culbert, Beth Ann Stasik; great-grandchildren, Alexandra, Jack, Sophie, Braden, Connor, Kendall, Leah, Brianna; sisters in law, Antoinette Stasik, Jane Stasik; many nieces and nephews.

Visitation is Friday, February 12, at Krot Funeral Home in Hamtramck, 3 – 8 p.m., with Parish Scriptures at 6:30. Mrs. Stasik will lie in state Saturday, 9:30 a.m. followed by Mass at 10, at Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church in Hamtramck. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

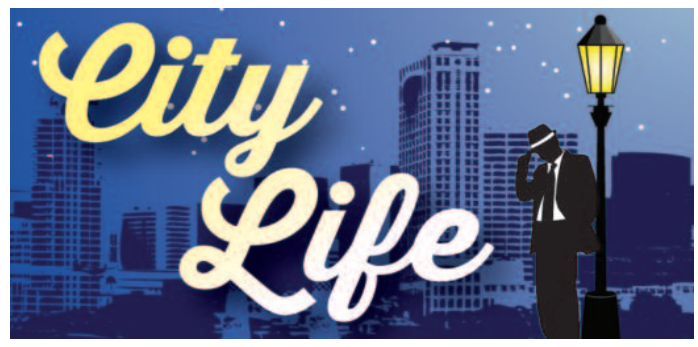
In Loving Memory
James Jennings
Feb. 14, 1967 – Feb. 16, 2014

Sadly missed and loved by mom, sisters (Delphine and Donna) brothers (Joe, John and Jerald) and many nephews and nieces.

Happy Birthday Jimmy,

It's been two years since you passed, but not a day hasn't passed that we haven't thought of you. Thoughts that made us cry, laugh, smile and even shake our heads. You may not be here on earth with us, but in our hearts you live strong.

Love, Delphine and Donna



Continued from page front page

nets for positive regional and national media attention, and they deserve it. These are two classic and timeless Jos. Campau stores.

Walking into either of them is like going back to the 1960s, the 1970s or 1980s, you pick the decade. They have survived, unlike others that sadly did not – Oaza and New Deluxe come to mind – and at this time of year they thrive.

At P.L.A.V. Post 10, the party was going on two floors. Bands were playing on the upstairs stage, downstairs it was karaoke and food by Srodek's in the back kitchen. I had the "hybrid" – smoked and fresh kielbasa with a heap of sauerkraut on a submarine sized bun, juiced up even more with white horseradish and yellow mustard.

A sandwich of pure genius, one of the best I've had in, well, forever.

Back outside the snow was coming down a bit harder, an appropriate wintry contrast to the clear skies and low-40 temps experienced on Saturday for the 5K Paczki Run. That event was organized by Tour de Troit and supported by dozens of local and Detroit-area sponsors. More than 2,500 runners and walkers (including dogs) took part in this year's race, an ideal way to expand the celebration beyond eating and drinking.

Making my way south, I ran into Alissa Shelton, who with her family is renovating the former Golden Hill restaurant at Jos. Campau and Caniff. Before that, it was the Martha Washington Bar. Originally, it was the Merchants & Mechanics Bank of Hamtramck.

There is some fascinating history here. I got a brief tour but plan to be back when work is further along. The plan is for a versatile space that can host events supporting ideas and actions to better community life, including exploring ways to fill more main street storefronts.

Sounds great. We will check in again here at a later date.

Across Jos. Campau, I popped into Detroit Threads, where owner Mikel Smith was hosting an afternoon and evening filled with DJ talent. Before moving on, I flipped through the "Synth/New Wave" record bins. Mikel has tons of vinyl of all kinds, not just the house and techno music he is best known for.

It was only about 2 p.m. but the tent in back of Whiskey in the Jar was predictably jammed. I squirmed in and quickly slid out when I could only get halfway into the performance area, then left to see about some paczki-inspired chocolates at Bon Bon Bon.

My last stop was at Bumbo's, where owners Brian and Tia Fletcher Krawczyk have created an environment that can fit every occasion. I celebrated my birthday there last summer. We held our Public Pool holiday party at Bumbo's in December. The food pop ups have all been incredibly good, a model that can be, and I'm sure will be, used by other forward thinking local bar owners in the future.

I had a bowl of homemade kielbasa and bacon in kapusta, another perfect Paczki Day meal. I looked to the stool on my right and saw that Mayor Karen Majewski was sitting down.

As we normally do, we talked of the city as it is today, about proposals and projects planned for the near future, how opportunities seem to be accelerating as spring and summer approaches. We swapped stories of developments rumored or in the pipeline, then swore ourselves to secrecy until they are ready to be announced.

It was not only a good talk with the mayor on a great day for Hamtramck, but it was one where momentum for more positive growth was as thick in the air as the falling snow.

(Walter Wasacz spends most of his time walking, reminiscing and writing in Hamtramck, where he was born and still lives.)

This week at the library...

Citizenship Classes – **Tuesday, February 16, 5 p.m.**, Hamtramck residents can get help in preparing for their citizenship exam. Classes are free. Registration is required.

ESL Class – **Wednesday, February 17, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.**, ESLclasses are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

ESL Class – **Friday, February 19, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.**

Black History Month – **Art and History Exhibit through runs February 28.** Sponsored by The Creative Spirits.

Black History Film festival – **Thursdays in February.** Thursday, Feb. 18: "Malcolm X"; Thursday, Feb. 25: "Selma"; 4:30 p.m. lecture before each film. Films will begin promptly at 5 p.m. Sponsored by the Hamtramck NAACP Committee.

Tax program – **Mondays, through April 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** Wayne Metro's Free Tax Program offers accessible services throughout Wayne County, with different times and locations. While appointments are encouraged, walk-ins are also accepted. To make an appointment please call: (313) 388-9799.

Movie Night at the Library – **Wednesday, Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m.** Spotlight. The true story of how the Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core.

Blind Date with a Book -- **The month of February.** Take a chance on love! Stop by the Hamtramck Public Library's "Blind Date with a Book" display and choose a surprise book to check out. Who knows? Maybe this unknown book will be the start of an enduring relationship.

Michigan Activity Pass -- The pass will enable Library card holders to obtain a one-time free entry into any Michigan State park or recreation area, and free entry into over 100 participating cultural institutions. Ask at the circulation desk for more details.

For more information about events at the library call (313) 365-7050, or visit our website at http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us where you can also access our online catalog.

Second Front Page

Domestic automakers score big at Detroit Auto Show

By John Kovach
Special to The Review

The Honda Civic and the Volvo AC 90 may be car and truck of the year but the domestic manufacturers were truly the big winners at the 2016 North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

American automakers recently filled Cobo Center with over 50 new car and truck introductions. The show ran from Jan. 16 to 24.

General Motors featured new models in every one of its divisions. Chevrolet has a lot to be proud of with a new Malibu, and redesigned Cruze. This new Cruze lineup also includes a hatchback in it's line up. This is the first hatchback offered on the Cruze.

In the mid-size hybrid/electric segment, there is the redesigned Volt and brand new smaller Bolt electric model.

The Bolt will be available a little later this year. Buick has the brand new Cascada convertible. There are three Buick concept cars including the 2017 redesigned La Crosse, the Envision crossover, and the stunning sleek Buick Avista luxury coupe.

Ford shined with the Mustang Cobra and a slightly restyled Fusion. The Fusion used for NASCAR was unveiled. Lincoln Division has a new flagship car, the Continental.

The Continental name is being used again after being gone for over 10 years. The MKZ has a new front end design with Continental similarity.

Some of the biggest news came from Chrysler. The Chrysler Town and Country is totally restyled and will now be called the Pacifica. It will be a 2017 model.

The foreign carmakers have their own reason to be proud of their offerings. Mercedes has an all new E-Class entry model lineup.

This continues its tradition of providing a quality product in an entry level model. The Lexus lineup is refining its designs to become a style leader. Jaguar is offering a new XF model which is rear wheel drive, sleek and 100 pounds lighter.

All in all, with worldwide auto sales over 80 million vehicles sold, and the American sales at over 17 million, the global demand for automobiles is stronger than ever.

Enjoy a meal and meet Hamtramck's legendary locals

Movie stars, great entertainers, educators, sports legends – Hamtramck has produced its share.

And you can meet them at the next Hungry for History program Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, 9525 Jos. Campau.

Some attained great fame, like tennis great Jean Hoxie and movie star John Hodiak. Others were only known locally. But each played a significant role in Hamtramck's history.

Consider Emil Konopinski.

He was one of a group of a small group of scientists who developed the atomic bomb.

Gail Kobe starred in hundreds of TV shows and movies in the 1950s and 1960s. She also produced many TV shows, including "The People's Court" and numerous soap operas.

And don't forget Pinky Deras, the greatest Little League player of all time.

These folks and many more will make an appearance at the event in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. It will include dozens of photos of legendary locals who have played a prominent role in Hamtramck's rich history.

Some you may remember, like Mayor Al Zak; others have been lost in the dim mists of time, like Arthur Rooks, although he once was one of Hamtramck's most prominent residents.

You can expect a few surprises as well.

Doors open for the catered dinner at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m. The program is at 7 p.m. Cost for the dinner is $15. There is no charge for the program, but donations are appreciated.

Reservations must be received no later than Tuesday, Feb. 16. For reservations, call (313) 893-5027, email hamtramckhistory@gmail.com, or visit the museum website, www.hamtramckhistory.org and prepay there.

All proceeds support the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

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Feb. 24 - Lenten Devotions, 7 p.m.
March 2 - Lenten Devotions, 7 p.m.

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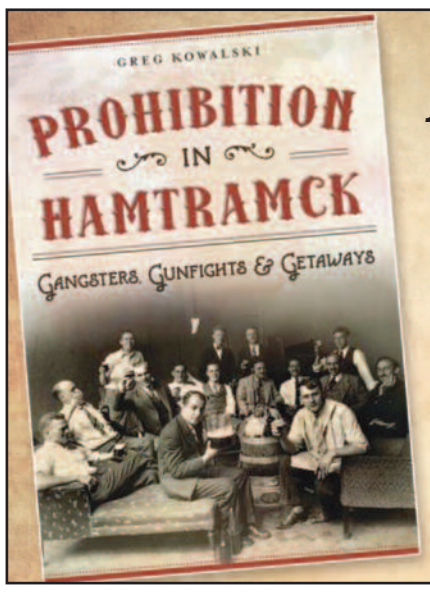

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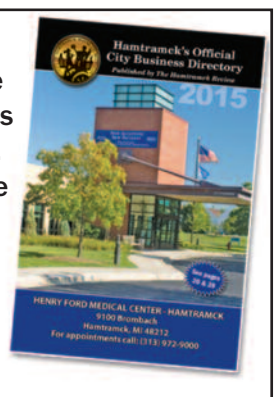
Coming Soon 2016 Hamtramck Business Directory

The Review's 2016 Official City Business Directory is about to hit the streets. It includes the phone numbers of local area businesses from A to Z. Advertisers, get on board for a unique opportunity to have your message delivered to 10,000 households and businesses in Hamtramck and the nearby areas of Detroit in March 2016.



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School Bell

Kosciuszko Middle School News

The January art contest results are in.

The individual art contest, sponsored by the KMS Student Council, is an opportunity for KMS students to show their beautiful artistic talent.

The theme was "A New Year," and it was judged on creativity and craftsmanship. This month's 1st place winner was Nuha Ahmed; 2nd place was Shazmina Ahmed, and 3rd was Dahika Ahmed.

All winners won goodie bags containing treats, art supplies and headphones.

The KMS January Academic Support door decorating contest results are in.

The door art decorating program at Kosciuszko Middle School continues.

The door decorating contest is an opportunity for students to work together as a team. The theme was in honor of "Kid Inventor Day," and the winners were Ms. Porter's class.

Each student in that class received a goodie bag of pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, stickers and snacks. They

Continued on page 5

Southend landmark bar is now up for sale

By Charles Sercombe

One of Hamtramck most venerable bars is up for sale.

According to a listing service that only real estate brokers can access, realcomponline.com, the southend bar is being listed for $600,000, which includes the liquor license.

New Dodge is owned by Lew Gordon, the husband of former City Councilmember Cathie Gordon. When called about the listing, Cathie Gordon reacted in surprise.

"It is?" she said when told the bar is listed for sale. "You should call my husband. That's what happens when you live in Hamtramck and he lives in Sterling Heights."

Several years ago Gordon said she moved out of her Sterling Heights home to live with her mother. She said at the time that she had not separated from her husband.

The issue came up when there was serious doubt that she actually lived in the city while serving on city council. Gordon served one-and-a-half terms and then challenged Mayor Karen Majewski for the mayor's job. She lost that election and a subsequent challenge a few years later.

Lew Gordon did not return calls for comment, but Cathie Gordon later called back.

She said she and her husband had been thinking about selling the bar and "testing the water" to see if anyone would be interested.

"We're both getting up in age," Gordon added.

The listing also says that employees at the bar are unaware of the sale.

News of the sale came just as Paczki Day was about to take place. New Dodge attracts one of the largest crowds for the yearly celebration. The bar has also showcased numerous local and national rock acts.

Several years ago Gordon received a DDA grant to redo the bar's façade, which now features a huge window.

The 5,000-square-foot bar is located at 8848 Jos. Campau. Besides serving up drinks, the bar offers hamburgers for sale. New Dodge's layout is a rarity in Hamtramck, featuring an upstairs area to view bands and to sit.

Got an extra $600,000? If so, you could be the new owner of New Dodge Lounge.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
CITY OF HAMTRAMCK
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PY 2016

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, the City of Hamtramck is announcing its objectives and possible uses for developing projects using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

For Program Year 2016, the City of Hamtramck anticipates receiving an allocation of approximately $236,826.30 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds.

The City of Hamtramck will be holding the 2nd Public Hearing at the City Council Meeting on **Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI 48212, to receive any comments from the public related to the stated objective and proposed budget for the PY 2016 allocation. A list of possible projects allowable under this funding is available in the Hamtramck City Clerk's Office.

CITY OF HAMTRAMCK OBJECTIVE

To promote economic health and financial equity through activities that improve the business environment, facilitate regionalism and collaborations, create and retain jobs, improve job skills, and provide an overall high quality of life in the City of Hamtramck.

PROPOSED BUDGET

Code Enforcement	$ 80,000.00
Parks	$ 85,000.00
Other Public Facilities Improvements	$ 15,000.00
Housing Rehab	$ 33,143.67
Administration	$ 23,682.63
Total	**$ 236,826.30**

Written comments on or before the date of the hearing should be directed to the attention of the Kathy Angerer, Director, Community and Economic Development, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 days notice to the City Clerk's Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk's Office at (313) 870-0343.

Published February 12, 2016

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

The Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212, on March 2, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., to consider and afford the opportunity for input to be recorded on the appeal for a modification of zoning on the premises described below. Any variation or modification granted would have no bearing on private restrictions. The public may appear or express their views in writing. The public is invited to attend and comment at the public hearing or to make written comments on or before the date of the hearing. Written comments should be made to the attention of the Kathy Angerer, Community and Economic Development Director, ATT'N: Zoning Board of Appeals, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212.

- PUBLIC HEARING – Sultan Saleh, 11460 Sobieski
  Article V. Residential Zones – Section 1, Structure and Site Requirements Item 1.06(a)

- PUBLIC HEARING – Allen Allos, 10309 Conant
  Article XI. Sign Regulations – Section 5. Specific Sign Standards. Item 5.10 Wall Signs

- PUBLIC HEARING – The Conant Bar Inc., 12001 Conant
  Article XI. Sign Regulations – Section 5. Specific Sign Standards. Item 5.10 Wall Signs

- PUBLIC HEARING – Jamil Saleh, 2486 Danforth
  Article V. Residential Zones – Section 1, Structure and Site Requirements Item 1.06(i)

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Published February 12, 2016

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Why not have more festivals and parties in Hamtramck?

One thing that came to mind during the past week's Paczki Day events was this:

Why not have more festivals in Hamtramck?

The Countdown to Paczki Day event drew about 3,000 people, thanks in large part to great planning and the partnership with Tour-de-Troit, which sponsored a 5k run right before the countdown.

After the run, participants and anyone hanging around could grab a beer and continue to enjoy the fun.

Yes, we do have the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival and the Hamtramck Music Festival to look forward to.

These are great, but Hamtramck could step it up and allow more festivals and even block parties to take place throughout the year. Of course this takes someone to plan all this, but we think there are enough motivated folks here who could pull it off.

In big cities like New York and Chicago there are neighborhood festivals/parties happening each weekend.

Hamtramck is ready-made for that to happen here.

Maybe we're just daydreaming, but with the number of city parking lots and empty spaces, we could really make this city a happening town.

Odds & Ends

Celebration... A hearty Happy Birthday goes out to Kristen Hurt, the Principal of Horizon high School.

Review Publisher John Ulaj was part of an office celebration for Hurt. As they say in Hamtramck: Sto Lat!

Other Voices: Guest Editorial

Flint, Michigan, black ashes, mortality and Lent

By Fr. Lawrence M. Ventline

A walk up or down Caniff or Joseph Campau Avenue in Hamtramck, Michigan Wednesday may surprise some passersby who glance at the black-palm-tree-branch-burnt-ash-smeared foreheads of the faithful who are freshly marked with the cross-shaped ashen reminder of their mortality at the nearby Queen of Apostles Church on Conant, or, Saint Florian Church only blocks away from Jos. Campau.

For millions of Christians, including Catholics across the universe, a 40-day penitential season of Lent starts this week through Holy Thursday evening of the week when the same believers will celebrate Easter Sunday at the end of next month. An Old English word, "Lencten," means "springtime." It is a time of intense praying, fasting from foods and meats on Fridays, and charitable giving, and, forgiving others more in this trek that is similar to the 30-day period of Muslims, called Ramadan. Additionally, the prophet Joel in the ancient Hebrew Scriptures warns old testament Bible readers, among others, to blow a trumpet, proclaim a fast, and, to call the assembly together.

While making my usual routine Monday afternoon through the 2.2 square-mile and diversely-populated town nestled between Highland Park and Detroit, long lines of people from Waterford, New Haven, Shelby Township, and Harrison Township, for example, formed in and around the lone two historic Polish-American bakeries blocks apart on Jos. Campau.

They aimed to get their hands on the traditional jelly-filled Paczki pastry to eat on "Mardi Gras" Tuesday just before the Ash Wednesday rigor of forgetting about such treats for four weeks. Christians intend to focus on the living, suffering and dying of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, they claim, and, their guide, who came to show them the "way the truth and the life," and, to save them from the grip of sin and death, they believe.

"Do they have ashes sprinkled on those Paczki (pronounced ponsh-kee)," I asked aloud as cheerful crowds noticed my Roman collar tight around

Continued on page 6

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Paczki Day rolls with the weather and a few awkward moments

Continued from front page

formed the Heimlich maneuver on him, and saved the day.

But in true Hamtramck spirit, the man insisted on continuing. Organizers wisely decided that was it for him.

The winner was once again Matthew Holowicki, who last year swore he was retiring. After downing 22 paczki, which was one shy of his record, he once again swore that was it.

Sure.

Later, there was an issue about parking and towing at the US Fish and Chicken eatery parking lot next to New Martha Washington Bakery. You can read more about what's going on about the towing of cars from private lots in this issue, but in this case the situation was a little different.

The owner of the new eatery (located at the former Wendy's spot) agreed to cover up his private parking signs and be a good neighbor by allowing bakery customers to park in his lot on Monday and Tuesday.

On Saturday that wasn't the case and bakery customers were being towed from the lot and had to pay $400 in cash to get their cars back.

Even though there was a deal in place with US Fish, on Tuesday the owner apparently forgot to tell his employees it was OK for bakery customers to park in his lot. They called for their regular tow service and two cars were hooked up.

Police officers arrived on the scene and smoothed things out, but not before people who were lined up outside the bakery began shouting at the tow truck operators and threatened to block the exits.

Wow, such drama!

Those incidents definitely put the "punch" in Paczki Day.

Until next year, sweet, sticky dreams.

The 5k Paczki Run on Saturday attracted over 2,000 people. Below: A contestant in the annual Paczki Eating Contest has his hands full.

School Bell

Continued from page 4

had an overall score of 20 out of 24 and were very creative.

• Thursday, February 18 – 2nd Semester Curriculum Night from 4:30-7 p.m. All parents are encouraged to attend and hear what their children will be learning 2nd semester in their classes and get tips on how to help their children at home. Refreshments will be served.

• Thursday, February 25 – KMS' Got Talent, a talent show at 4 p.m. The Hamtramck community is invited to be part of the audience and there will be a $2 admission fee. All proceeds will go towards funding student council initiatives throughout the year. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. We hope to see everyone there.

Hamtramck High School News

On January 12, 37 students from Hamtramck High School visited the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing. Everyone enjoyed their visit.

Holbrook Elementary School News

ESL classes began at Holbrook Elementary School. Please contact the school if interested at (313) 872-3203.

• Tuesday, February 16 – Parents of Great Students (P.O.G.S.) meeting at 9 a.m. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Dickinson East Elementary School News

• Wednesday, February 17 – Dickinson East Parent Teacher Association meeting at 3:30 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend.

Dickinson West Elementary School News

• Wednesday, February 17 – The National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) Induction ceremony will take place from 5- 6:30 p.m. The ceremony will begin with light refreshments, followed by the induction ceremony starting at 5:30 p.m. All parents of honor society students are encouraged to attend.

All Schools

• Friday, February 12 – Monday, February 15, no school for students. Mid-Winter Break.

• Tuesday, February 16 – School Resumes.

Compiled by Janice Gandelman

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Phone: 313-874-2100 Fax: 313-874-2101
www.hamtramckreview.com
email news@thehamtramckreview.com

Publisher: John Ulaj • (248) 866-1110
julaj@thehamtramckreview.com
Editor: Charles Sercombe
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Coming events

SATURDAY, Feb. 13, 2-4 p.m. – Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross Parish, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. All are welcome.

SATURDAY, Feb. 13, 9-3 p.m. – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop of your recyclables for free.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. – The Hamtramck Midtown Block Club will not meet during December 2015 and January 2016. In 2016, the block club will meet Wednesday, February 17, at 7 p.m. in St. Florian's Convent, 2626 Florian; please use the side entrance. Share information with your friends and neighbors and listen to guest speakers. Light refreshments will be served. Please invite others to join us.

For every $100 spent in locally owned business, $68 returns to the community

source: the350project.net

Flint, Michigan, black ashes, mortality and Lent

Continued from page 5

my neck, and tucked beneath my burgundy and black-lined scarf.

"No!" one blond-haired lady yelled back, "but they have lemon, prune, raspberry, and more," she concluded as she checked off a long-narrow sheet with a long yellow lead pencil to mark off her order of a dozen or more of the sugar-high-volume cakes.

"The line is up front, Father Ventline" one elderly man blurted out, obviously aware of my visits and "street evangelizing" that one Polish passerby dubbed as my weekly work, as I made my way to the other bakery where even longer lines circled the corner and blocked traffic. After bit of friendly conversation there, I moved on.

Finally, on my way to the Polish Market across the street, I thought of the toxic neglect of the Flint River, and, how residents there in that that automobile city would observe Lent now that they have been exposed to contaminated drinking water for more than a year, according to some reports.

The children came to mind where the health risk strikes the mainly poor and largely African-American residents. An emergency manager approved the decision to draw water from the polluted Flint River in April of 2014, while another EM, a year later, vetoed a seven-to-one vote by Flint's city council who urged the immediate return to the Detroit water system.

After all, at Easter, many of those believers will watch water pour over the heads of the newly-claimed Christians who are baptized or received into the church after their year-long formation in the faith, and, adults, and, the infant children's parental attraction to have their kids join the Christian community.

Will the water still be orange-colored and contaminated, I wondered? Did race play a role in the decisions to save money in Flint? Could that happen in Dearborn, Ferndale or Birmingham? What if local officials who live in Flint made the final determination to shut off the flow of Detroit's water? Would the story end in such horror?

While I drove home after my few-hour trek through another troubled town along Detroit's borders, I thought about misery, mercy, and more. My own personal plans for Lent suddenly sobered me all over from heart and soul to saddened reasoning. With a bowed head before I laid my head on my bed pillow late Monday night, I thanked God for priceless water, for Flint, and for what may be a Lent that seems longer than usual, at least for my acquaintances in Flint, Michigan.

(Lawrence Matthew Ventline is a Catholic pastor, a board certified professional counselor for 40 years, and, is a former religion columnist for The Detroit News. A former first executive director of the ecumenical Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, Father Ventline resides in Harrison Township, MI. You can reach him at www.religionrootsrelationships.blogspot.com).

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Deadline for classifieds for next week is Thursday at Noon Call (313) 874-2100 to Place Your Ad!

CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Feb. 2-8.

Tuesday, February 2

• At 10:30 p.m. officers responded to gunshots being fired in the 2600 block of Casmere. Officers received multiple conflicting witness accounts. Two shell casings were found and taken.

• At about 1:30 a.m. a resident was arrested after leading officers on a car chase. The driver crashed into a building in a Detroit neighborhood. He was charged with numerous offenses, including fleeing and eluding and driving without a license. The driver has 10 previous convictions of this offense.

• At a little after 5 a.m. a resident was arrested following an investigation in the area of Lumpkin and Yemans. The suspect was wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

• A man reported he gave money to someone fraudulently posing as a government agent.

Wednesday, February 3

• At a little after midnight a domestic assault report was taken at a residence in the 2600 block of Pulaski

• A car chase with officers ended in a crash on I-75. The driver died after traveling the wrong way and crashing into another car.

• A man was arrested for assaulting his girlfriend.

• A business in the 11000 block of Jos. Campau reported a break-in.

• A resident reported that while on Jos. Campau a man snatched her phone and ran away.

• A resident reported that someone fraudulently emptied the joint bank account he shares with his mother.

Thursday, February 4

• At 1:45 a.m. officers took a report of a wallet being stolen out of a car parked in the 11600 block of Conant.

• A Lumpkin resident reported a break-in and the theft of several items.

• A taxi driver reported that while talking to potential customers, two men reached into the cab and stole his cellphone.

• A Detroit resident was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital after he was found unconscious and intoxicated.

Friday, February 5

• A driver crashed into a car in the 3000 block of Roosevelt. The driver abandoned his car on Hanley and fled. The car was impounded and a ticket was mailed to the driver.

• At about 1 a.m. a homeless man was arrested after exposing himself to a group of people while in the 10200 block of Jos. Campau.

• An agent for a business in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau reported someone damaged a window.

• A resident in the 3000 block of Caniff reported $1,100 missing from his apartment. There was no sign of a forced entry.

• A Sterling Heights man reported someone stole a basketball rim from his rental house on Holmes. The rim was recovered on Sunday by officers in the 2700 block of Yemans.

• A Detroit resident was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital after he was found heavily intoxicated at Roosevelt and Jos. Campau.

Saturday, February 6

• At 10:30 p.m. officers responded to a shot being fired in the 12000 block of Oklahoma

• A robbery was reported in the area of Holbrook and Mitchell.

• A resident reported his credit card was being fraudulently used.

Sunday, February 7

• Officers secured an open garage door in the 2200 block of Belmont.

• A person was arrested for disorderly conduct after an investigation of a disturbance.

• A runaway juvenile was located and taken to the county juvenile delinquency center.

• A resident reported her car was stolen.

Monday, February 8

• At 11:30 p.m. a person was robbed by two armed men in the area of Jos. Campau and Holmes. The first suspect was described as a black male, 5-feet, 11-inches tall, about 25, hazel-colored eyes, and wearing a black hat, black jogging suit and black shoes. The second suspect's race was not known and he was wearing a black ski mask, black jogging suit and black shoes.

• The owner of a business in the 10000 block of Jos. Campau reported someone spray painted graffiti on the door frame.

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